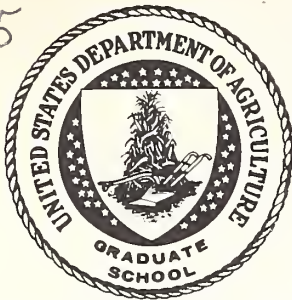


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Newsletter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 1970

November 26
December 1

2

DEC 7 1970

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

1

24-January 1

Thanksgiving Day -- no classes

Lecture -- "Balanced Growth and the Citizen,"

by Norbert T. Tiemann, Governor of Nebraska.

Thomas Jefferson Auditorium, USDA, at 10 a.m.

Lecture -- "Physiological & Biochemical Effects
of the Air Pollution Fluoride on Plants," by

Dr. Delbert McClune, Boyce Thompson Institute

for Plant Research, Yonkers, New York.

Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland, 10 a.m.

Faculty Luncheon -- "The Problem of Individualiz-
ing Education," by Robert E. Pruitt, Director of

General and Vocational Education Research, U.S.

Office of Education

Christmas holidays -- no classes

STEPS "TOWARD ONE HUMANITY"

A combination Renaissance Man-Flower Child approach to the development of humanity was described by Dr. John Nef during the November faculty luncheon.

Dr. Nef, currently chairman of the Center for Human Understanding, and a pioneer in the development of interdisciplinary university curricula, spoke on the topic, "Toward One Humanity."

Citing a need to encourage young persons to arouse and cultivate their imaginative faculties, Dr. Nef said: "The guiding stars for great artists in their work are not, as with scientists and engineers, what is or what can be, but what ought to be."

Dr. Nef called for a new kind of graduate, "whose interests and gifts would revive habits of careful reading and reflection among a public in all countries."

"When all is said and done," Dr. Nef said, "the answer to what is essential if man is to control the dangerous discoveries that scientists have made for him, is the prevalence of a human quality which has rarely been manifested save in words -- namely love."

Historical forces are pressing for a new devotion to the eternal virtues, Dr. Nef said, "to charity, compassion and love, towards which the noblest aspirations of men and women have always been directed."

"Charity, compassion and love," he said, "must today involve a world point of view, with devotion to the divine element in the human individual, as the ultimate goal of existence. Such faith must acquire precedence over local and even national allegiances."



Such a faith, Dr. Nef said, would not eliminate national and local allegiances, but could direct them "towards those improvements in the environment and in international relations which are necessary if humankind is to have a future."

Dr. Nef envisioned the formation of an international union the core of which would be a small council of disinterested men and women, a kind of world Supreme Court, chosen perhaps by the living holders of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The authority of the new Council would be moral and spiritual rather than political, Dr. Nef said. He continued, "Yet supported by a few small extraterritorial faculties in an increasing number of places and countries, it might, by simple persuasion, bring about bit by bit reforms in the structure and composition of the United Nations. Eventually this might provide that body with the purpose for which, like the earlier League of Nations, it was founded, the purpose of preventing wars among the nations. The road to such an end is through the common understanding for which, in inconspicuous and imperfect ways, the Committee on Social Thought has stood since it was conceived a generation ago with the name originally -- the Committee on Civilization. The life of such small groups could be interesting enough to help the few who participate, and the many they could influence, to forego the luxury of violence. Being small, as they gained prestige, their influence could spread, through the Council to the many. The life of such groups, united through the small World Council of perhaps a dozen persons, could nourish those universal values that humans of all colors, nations, and persuasions share. At a time of tremendous and rapid changes in societies these values alone are capable of rallying the noblest aspirations in the professions, in business, in the arts, in craftsmanship and even routine labor, and above all in politics and statesmanship, where they are alas so often absent. These values are the only effective alternative to violence and violence has become a luxury humans can no longer afford."

Dr. Nef described the formation of the interdisciplinary faculty at the University of Chicago in 1942, and the Center for Human Understanding in Paris in 1958. The latter group dissolved on his retirement, and Dr. Nef and his wife have formed the Nef Foundation to carry on its work.

LECTURE SERIES UNDER WAY

"Toward Balanced Growth," lecture series sponsored by the Graduate School in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, got off to an excellent start on November 4 with a standing-room-only audience.

Henry L. Ahlgren, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, spoke on "The USDA Toward Balanced Growth" at that kickoff session. He spoke of the need to "redirect the growth of this Nation in order to improve the living conditions of the urban population and, at the same time, to increase the rate of growth of nonmetropolitan America."

Events in rural America during the next two or three decades, Dr. Ahlgren said, "will profoundly affect our future. If present population and opportunity trends are not broken or bent toward a more equitable distribution (between rural and metropolitan), America faces potential disaster."

As possible approaches toward future balanced growth, Dr. Ahlgren cited: various legislative actions, industrial dispersion, more help for small cities and towns, land use policies to protect open space, a rural development bank, and national full-employment policies.

"I am confident we will find direction for national growth policies," he said, "if, as the President has suggested, we involve the people of this Nation in more meaningful dialogue about the actions needed at all levels of government and by themselves."

At the November 9 session, D. Gale Johnson, Dean of Social Sciences, University of Chicago, spoke on "Population Balance." He cited indications that by the year 2000, about 70 percent of the Nation's population would reside in 12 metropolitan areas.

Our economy affords only limited means of influencing population distribution, Mr. Johnson said. These are subsidies, location of governmental activities, governmental procurement, location of facilities normally provided by government, such as roads, and modifying programs "that may by design or inadvertance give advantages to certain areas."

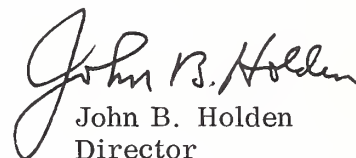
Attempts to influence population distribution, Mr. Johnson said, must take into consideration improvement of metropolitan areas as a place to live, "since it seems unlikely that any set of policies to increase the desirability of living in nonfarm areas can do more than moderate the decline in the fraction of the population living in nonfarm areas."

On November 17, "Economics of Balanced Growth" will be discussed by Benjamin Chinitz, Dean of Economics, Brown University.

On November 24, "Resources and Technology for Balanced Growth" will be the topic of Marion Clawson, Director, Land Use and Management, Resources for the Future.

The concluding session, December 1, will feature Governor of Nebraska, Norbert T. Tiemann, speaking on "Balanced Growth and the Citizen."

All sessions begin at 10 a.m. in the Thomas Jefferson Auditorium, USDA. There is no admission charge.



John B. Holden
Director

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